

***U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY***  
**Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC)**

The Hotel Washington  
Washington, DC  
July 16-17, 2003

– Meeting Summary –

The Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) met in plenary on July 16 and 17, 2003 in Washington, DC. The Science and Regulatory Work Group met on July 15. (See Attachment 1 for the meeting agenda and Attachment 2 for the CHPAC participant list.)

**Key Decisions**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	Approved sending SAB Bioethics Committee Letter to the Acting Administrator

**Action Items**

- OCHP will continue to move forward with CHPAC rechartering. Nominations are underway for both returning and new members.
- CHPAC members supported a proposed transition process as the EPA recharter the committee. A transition team, comprised of OCHP staff, CHPAC Chair Melanie Marty, CHPAC Acting Chair Howard Frumkin, CHPAC member Susan West Marmagas, and RESOLVE, will review the comments from members at the July meeting on potential CHPAC issues and process improvements. The team will then develop suggested implementation steps. Before the fall plenary meeting, Dr. Marty will create and distribute a plan for the members which the Committee will discuss at the meeting.
- Members were encouraged, as they see fit, to nominate pediatric bioethicists or other qualified individuals to the SAB Committee on Bioethics through the SAB website.
- OCHP will follow-up coordinating a CHPAC briefing by Agency staff on the response to the committee's smart growth recommendations.
- CHPAC members expressed support for the Science and Regulatory Work Group to begin work on issues related to mercury in September, when the new CHPAC charter is in place. The Work Group will report to the CHPAC on this topic at its fall meeting.

**Meeting Objectives**

- Highlight upcoming, nationally important environmental children's health issues;
- Discuss and review past EPA activities on children's health;
- Review CHPAC record of work and discuss impacts;

- Review and assess FACA work products and discuss possible improvements;
- Discuss strategic area of focus for the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee;
- Hear updates from the Science and Regulatory Work Group;
- Learn about the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP); and
- Learn about new and continuing activities at EPA and the Office of Children's Health Protection.

[For a copy of presentation slides used by any of the speakers, contact Kate Zimmer, RESOLVE, by e-mail at [kzimmer@resolv.org](mailto:kzimmer@resolv.org), by telephone at 202/965-6387, or by fax at 202/338-1264.]

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Howard Frumkin, acting CHPAC chair for this meeting, opened the meeting and welcomed members.

## **Highlights of Recent OCHP Activities**

Joanne Rodman, U.S. EPA Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) and Designated Federal Official (DFO) to the CHPAC, updated the CHPAC on OCHP and other EPA activities. She reviewed OCHP's work with the Science Advisory Board (SAB), toxicity testing, VCCEP, and children's health indicators, a project on health care providers, state asthma programs, and Children's Health Month. (See Attachment 3 for a detailed list of OCHP and EPA activities)

In response to a question from a CHPAC member, OCHP staff clarified the toxicity testing report will likely be available through the website. A member inquired about the status of the National Children's Study. OCHP staff responded the study organizers are planning the hypotheses for the study and that funding for the study has not yet been fully appropriated.

## **Science and Regulatory Work Group Report**

Dan Goldstein, Science and Regulatory Work Group (SRWG) co-chair updated the CHPAC on key SRWG activities, including:

- Discussion of the SAB panel on bioethics and letter to the acting administrator on this topic;
- Options for CHPAC responses to recent EPA activities in third-party human testing, with a focus on the appropriate use of older data and the need to consider special ethical issues in research on children;
- Suggestions for incorporating children's health considerations in EPA's proposed mercury rule;
- Other possible EPA actions to reduce worldwide mercury exposures in children, including a CHPAC work group on mercury.

The CHPAC then reviewed a draft recommendation letter to the Acting Administrator urging her to consider including individuals with knowledge of pediatrics on the SAB Committee on Bioethics. Members suggested the letter be slightly revised to emphasize the need to include bioethicists, particularly pediatric bioethicists, on the committee as well as pediatric specialists. The Agency is expected to announce a list of candidates within 6-8 weeks. CHPAC will have added opportunities to comment on the work of the SAB committee later in the fall and members agreed to not address that issue in the current letter.

After reviewing a revised letter reflecting member comments, the CHPAC approved the comment letter to the acting administrator.

### **Orientation to Strategic Review**

Dr. Frumkin introduced the context and purpose of the small group discussions on CHPAC priorities and improvements to CHPAC processes. As the Committee undergoes the process of rechartering and senior staff changes occur at the Agency, members have recently expressed a desire to reflect on whether the Committee is as effective as it could be. Ms. Rodman added that OCHP expects a smooth rechartering process and that a few membership changes will occur on the CHPAC. She also explained that OCHP's annual budget has been about \$6 million, including personnel.

Dr. Frumkin explained the process and objectives for the small group discussions. He reminded members of the seven original goals for Children's Health Protection established by the Agency in 1996 for standards, research, policies on cumulative and simultaneous exposures, community right-to-know, providing parents and health professionals with information, and committing resources.

### **Strategic Review of CHPAC Priorities**

In small groups, CHPAC members discussed several questions about critical/emerging issues in the children's health field, past CHPAC contributions to EPA efforts, EPA children's health goals, and recommendations for CHPAC for the next two years based on criteria presented to the groups. After discussions in small groups, CHPAC members reconvened in plenary session and reviewed and identified several areas for the future focus on the CHPAC. A compilation of the major issues and topic areas from each of the breakout groups follows:

#### *Environment/Health Topic Areas*

1. Air Pollution and Asthma
2. Water Quality and Tolerance Levels
3. School Environments and Learning Outcomes in Children's Exposure
4. Obesity
5. Built Environment
6. Global Climate Change
7. Specific Substances, Including Mercury, Lead, and Pesticides
8. FQPA

Broad Agency and OCHP Issues

9. Institutionalization of Children's Issues Throughout Agency
10. Data Needs and Gaps
11. Research, Evaluation and Analysis
12. Communications
13. Education
14. Ethical Issues
15. National Systems for Protecting Children's Health
16. Follow up on Previous CHPAC Issues, such as Children's Health Valuation Handbook, Rulewriters' Guide, Cancer Guidelines, and Farmworker Children.

**Small Group Discussion: Review and Identify Improvements to CHPAC Procedures and Processes**

Key improvements to CHPAC processes identified across the small groups include:

1. Committee management
  - Vice chair
  - Executive or steering committee
2. Standing committees
  - Have several workgroups (remembering that OCHP can only support a limited number of workgroups at one time)
  - Need focused tasks
3. Ad hoc small teams on specific issues
  - Explore issues and make proposals to plenary
  - Follow-up previous issues
  - Draft letters
  - Use e-mail and teleconferencing
4. Liaison/networking functions
  - With other EPA offices
  - With other agencies
  - With other FACAs/committees (for example, SAB)
5. Use technology for better communication
  - Website for reviewing materials and posting comments between meetings
  - Stop "wordsmithing" in plenary
6. Long-term tracking of issues
  - Regular briefings with focused information related to member questions
  - Advance information by e-mail/website to allow more review before CHPAC meetings
  - Track letters and responses and make available to members
7. Direct approaches to other offices
  - Meet with AAs
  - Invite needs for CHPAC advice
  - Follow-up letters
8. Products
  - Produce more detailed reports as well as letters

## **Public Comment**

Elaine Koerner, EPA's Designated Federal Officer for the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), told the CHPAC that GNEB's next report will focus on Children's Environmental Health along the U.S./Mexico border. GNEB plans to survey existing studies on the issue and provide a set of recommendations to the President and Congress. The report will look three settings for children's environmental health: home, school, and play with particular attention to the effects of poverty, child workers, and other unique characteristics of border communities (GNEB declined to add work sites to its analysis for now, but may reconsider this issue in the future). Ms. Koerner requested the CHPAC consider the conditions of children in these areas in its work. More information is available on EPA's website at 202-233-0069 or by contacting Ms. Koerner at [koerner.elaine@epa.gov](mailto:koerner.elaine@epa.gov). Ms. Koerner invited members to GNEB's next meeting on July 22 and 23 in San Diego.

In response to a member's question about the relationship of GNEB to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), Oscar Carrillo, Associate Designated Federal Officer for GNEB, responded that he is in frequent contact with the CEC.

Other members stressed the benefits of exchanging information among FACA groups and offered more resources for the GNEP to consider in preparing its report.

## **Update on NEJAC and VCCEP**

Janet Phoenix, CHPAC's representative on the NEJAC (National Environmental Justice Advisory Council) reported on activities of the newly formed NEJAC work group on Cumulative Risk. The work group will provide recommendations to the NEJAC in 2004 on policy approaches for cumulative risk studies involving low-income or minority communities. Contact Ms. Phoenix for more information on the NEJAC and the work group.

Ms. Phoenix also serves on the peer consultation committee for VCCEP (Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Panel). She noted that she is impressed with the peer consultation process so far, but continues to evaluate the rigor, timeliness, as well as the role of OCHP and its influence on the process.

## **VCCEP Panel**

A panel from EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics presented information of the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP). The panel members were Charles Auer, Office Director, Oscar Hernandez, and Jennifer Seed. Mr. Auer described developing VCCEP, designed to provide the public with a better understanding of health risks to children from exposure to chemicals. As part of this program, the Agency, working with an independent entity, will evaluate data on 20 chemicals through a transparent peer consultation process. The framework of the process, currently in the pilot phase, involves industry sponsors who provide information to scientists who review exposure and toxicity data. Three tiered stages of the process reflect the more data needs for a chemical. The Agency will use VCCEP products to make policy and regulatory decisions for specific chemicals.

In response to questions from CHPAC members, the panel providing the following points of clarification/ and more information:

- The results of the peer consultation processes are available to the public, most easily through the TERA website.
- The agency selected the early set of 20 chemicals based on high production and high volume chemicals for which sponsors offered commitments. Metals are not included in the set now, but could be added in the future.
- Sponsors are usually chemical manufacturers who make financial contributions for testing, while EPA funds the peer consultation process.
- Continuing discussions and input from OCHP and CHPAC are welcome.
- The agency will notify the public if the results of evaluation show unacceptable risk to children.

CHPAC members expressed several concerns about the VCCEP process, including: close involvement of industry in the final documents, the slow pace of the process, lack of a clear purpose for the peer consultation process, and data omissions.

### **Attachments**

1. Meeting Agenda
2. CHPAC Participant List
3. OCHP Update Handout

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*  
**CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Hotel Washington**  
**515 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20004-1099**

**July 16-17, 2003**

***Draft Agenda***

*The July 16-17 Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee Meeting will be different from many previous meetings. The July meeting will provide, during this a transition, an opportunity to step back, reflect on the successes of the OCHP, consider the issues the CHPAC has positively affected, and identify children's' environmental health issues.*

***Desired Outcomes:***

- *Highlight upcoming, nationally important environmental children's health issues;*
- *Discuss and review past EPA activities on children's health;*
- *Review CHPAC record of work and discuss impacts;*
- *Review and assess FACA work process and discuss possible improvements;*
- *Discuss strategic area of focus for the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee;*
- *Hear updates from the Science and Regulatory Work Group;*
- *Learn about the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP); and*
- *Learn about new and continuing activities at EPA and the Office of Children's Health Protection.*

**Tuesday, July 15, 2003**

Work Group Meeting:

10:00 - 4:30                      Science and Regulatory Workgroup

**Wednesday, July 16, 2003**

**Plenary Session**

**8:30                      Coffee**

**9:00                      Welcome, Introductions, Review Meeting Agenda**

*Objective: Review agenda.*

Howard Frumkin

Professor and Chair, Director, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit,  
Rollins School of Public Health

**9:15                      Highlights of Recent OCHP Activities**

*Objectives: Learn about recent developments on children's health at*

*EPA. Objectives Learn about recent developments concerning children's health at EPA and*  
*CHPACs representation in other federal forums.*

Joanne Rodman, Designated Federal Official  
Acting Co-Director, OCHP, U.S. EPA

- 9:45**      General Discussion: Orientation to Strategic Review  
*Objectives: Discuss context and approach for review.*
- What is the product of the discussion?
  - Context of critical and/or emerging issues related to OCHP and EPA
  - EPA's original goals in the National Agenda
  - Review the suggested questions for discussion below – What others would we want to ask ourselves?
  - Review suggested criteria for setting priorities – What else would we add?
- 10:15**      **Break**
- 10:30-11:00**      Science and Regulatory Workgroup Report  
*Objectives: Hear updates from the Science and Regulatory Work Group, including mercury issues and human health testing.*  
Daniel Goldstein, Science Workgroup Co-Chair
- 11:00**      Small Group Discussions: Where Have We Come and What are Our Priorities Today?  
*Objectives: Discuss critical upcoming issue and review progress on children's environmental health issues since ChPAC was formed in 1997. Worksheets will be provided*
- What are the critical and/or emerging issues for children's environmental health? [30 minutes] (see suggested list from OCHP as a starting point)
  - For EPA past activities on children's health, how did ChPAC's recommendations affect EPA's contributions to improving children's health, and what other ChPAC recommendations have been significant [30 min]
  - Which of the goals EPA set in 1997 continue to need the most attention? [15 min.]
  - Based on our criteria, where would we recommend ChPAC focus next? [15 min]
- 12:30-1:30**      **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:30-3:00**      Plenary Discussion: Strategic Review of ChPAC Priorities  
*Objectives: Recommend strategic areas of focus for the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee.*
- Reports from small groups on priority issues for future focus [30 min]
  - Discuss and identify priorities [60 min]
- 3:15**      **Break**
- 3:30-4:30**      Small Group Discussions: Review and Identify Improvements to ChPAC Procedures and Processes
- Looking at how the ChPAC has conducted its work in the past, what has worked well and where could we improve? [60 min]
- 4:30**      Public Comment
- 5:00**      **Adjourn**



### Thursday, July 17, 2003

- 8:30**            **Coffee**
- 9:00**            Discussion of Day One  
*Objective: Reflect on previous day and review agenda. Discuss any carry over items.*
- 9:15**            Panel Presentation: Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP)  
*Objectives: Learn about what VCCEP is, what has happened so far, and ask questions.*  
Charles Auer, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics  
Oscar Hernandez, Risk Assessment Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
- 10:15**           **Break**
- 10:30**           Discuss and Agree on Recommended Strategic Priorities for ChPAC  
*Objectives: Discuss and agree on possible comment letter(s). Reflect on what has worked well in how the ChPAC has worked over the years, and discuss issues where there could be improvement.*
- 11:45**           Wrap Up/Next Steps  
Summary of decisions and action items  
Dates for next meeting(s)
- 12:00**           **Adjourn Plenary**

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*  
**CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

July 16-17, 2003

*Members and Alternates Present*

Dr. John Balbus*	Environmental Defense	Washington	DC
Ms. Beatriz Barraza-Roppe	Colaborativo SABER	San Diego	CA
Ms. Claire Barnett	Healthy Schools Network, Inc.	Albany	NY
Mr. Craig Barrow*			
Mr. Angelo Bellomo	Los Angeles Unified School District		
Ms. Liz Blackburn	OCHP, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Washington	DC
Ms. Stephanie Chalupka*	University of Massachusetts	Lowell	MA
Mr. Russell Coker	United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.	Oklahoma City	OK
Dr. Mark Dickie	University of Central Florida	Orlando	FL
Ms. Shelly Davis, Esq.	Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc	Washington	DC
Dr. Maureen Edwards*	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Baltimore	MD
Dr. Willa A. Fisher		Bainbridge Island	WA
Dr. Howard Frumkin	Rollins School of Public Health	Atlanta	GA
Dr. Daniel A. Goldstein	Monsanto Corporation	St. Louis	MO
Dr. Myron Harrison	Exxon Mobil Corporation	Irving	TX
Dr. Birt Harvey	Stanford University Medical School	Palo Alto	CA
Dr. Margaret Heagarty		Bronx	NY
Ms. Julia Holmquist*	Nebraska Legislature	Lincoln	NE
Ms. Maureen Marchetta*	Children's Health Environmental Coalition	Princeton	NJ
Dr. Donald Mattison	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health	Bethesda	MD
Mr. Peter McAvoy	Sixteenth Street Community Health Center	Milwaukee	WI
Ms. Jane Ann Nogaki	New Jersey Environmental Federation	Marlton	NJ
Dr. Janet Phoenix	National Safety Council	Washington	DC
Dr. J.B. Pratt	Pratt Foods	Shawnee	OK
Dr. Routt Reigart	Charleston Memorial Hospital	Charleston	SC
Ms. Joanne Rodman	OCHP, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Washington	DC
Rabbi Daniel Swartz	Children's Environmental Health Network	Washington	DC
Ms. Juliane Van De Hei*	Association of Metropolitan Water Utilities	Washington	DC
Ms. Juliane H. Van Egmond	Bayer Corporation	Washington	DC
Ms. Susan West Marmagas	Physicians for Social Responsibility	Washington	DC

\* stands for alternate

# Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee

## Office of Children's Health Protection Update July 2003



### SCIENCE

- **Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines:** EPA issued draft final revised *Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment* on March 3, 2003, for a 60-day public comment period as well as for inter-agency review. At the same time, EPA released associated draft *Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Risk Resulting from Early Life Exposure*. The supplemental guidance is currently undergoing peer review by EPA's Science Advisory Board - the panel, which initially met in May, includes peer reviewers from the Science Advisory Board (SAB), the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel and CHPAC. A draft of the SAB's "Draft Report of the Supplemental Guidance for Cancer Susceptibility from Early-Life Exposure to Carcinogenesis Review Panel, June 20, 2003) can be found at: <http://epa.gov/sab/pdf/sgacsdfttrpt062003.pdf>
- **Guidance on Selecting the Appropriate Age Groups for Assessing Childhood Exposures to Environmental Contaminants:** EPA has developed draft guidance on the appropriate age groups to consider when assessing childhood exposure and potential dose to environmental contaminants. A consistent set of childhood age groups, supported by an underlying scientific rationale, will improve Agency exposure and risk assessments for children. The draft guidance has completed review by EPA's Science Policy Council Steering Committee and is now undergoing external peer review.
- **National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Evaluation of Future Approaches to Toxicity Testing for Risk Assessment:** An internal review of EPA's practices for assessing chemical toxicity, it was concluded that existing testing guidelines result in numerous gaps, especially with respect to understanding mechanisms of toxicity

and possible early life-stage sensitivity. This review will be used to help define a potential NAS evaluation of EPA toxicity testing. EPA continues to explore the possibility of working with other Federal agencies that rely on toxicity testing to seek a NAS study to explore the future of toxicity testing.

- **Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP):** Through VCCEP, industry sponsors volunteer to provide an assessment of potential health risks to children associated with certain chemical exposures. The assessment will undergo evaluation through external peer consultation and EPA review. The first four peer consultations have been held this year (however the summaries of these peer consultations are not yet available), and will likely continue until at least 2007. CHPAC member Janet Phoenix attended the June 3-5 peer consultation meeting to observe the process for the committee.

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS

- **America's Children: Key Indicators of Well-Being 2003:** The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics will be releasing its seventh annual report on July 18. The report will be available on the Forum's website, [www.childstats.gov](http://www.childstats.gov). Measures of obesity and exposure to secondhand smoke are new to the report this year.
- **North American Council on Environmental Cooperation (CEC):** On June 25, environmental ministers of Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. agreed to publish the first North American report on children's health and the environment. The ministers accepted the recommendations for twelve initial indicators and approved periodic updates of the report. The Council resolution is available on the CEC website: [http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/COUNCIL/Res-10-Indicators\\_en.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/COUNCIL/Res-10-Indicators_en.pdf). Recommendations for the indicators are also available: [http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/POLLUTANTS/CHE-Recommendations\\_en.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/POLLUTANTS/CHE-Recommendations_en.pdf).
- **Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO):** As a follow-up to the workshop on Children's Environmental Health in Lima, Peru, OCHP will be working with PAHO to begin developing the first Pan-American children's health and environment indicator report.
- **State Indicators Projects:** Maryland will be the first state to develop its own children's health and environment indicators report. OCHP will be providing technical assistance to the State of Maryland and the Maryland Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Committee.

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH VALUATION

- The **Children's Health Valuation Handbook** is undergoing informal OMB review.
- The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** will be holding the first international workshop on the Valuation of Environmental Health Risks for Children on September 11 and 12 in Paris, France. OCHP is working with the OECD, the European Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO-Europe) to conduct follow-up national pilots on valuation of health risks for children.
- OCHP is representing the U.S. on a **UNECE/WHO-Europe** project to assess transport related health impacts, costs and benefits with a particular focus on children.
- Three academic institutions are the recipients of about \$1 million in EPA research grants on children's health valuation. This research program, which began at the urging of the CHPAC, will close this year.

### REGULATORY

Two draft reports on EPA's progress on children's health issues are now available for CHPAC review.

- Update on EPA's Progress in Reevaluating Five Significant Standards that Affect Children's Health
- Evaluation of EPA Activities Related to Children's Health Protection

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH MONTH 2003

- The 2003 Children's Health Month Calendar is now available at: <http://www.childrenshealth.gov/calendar.html>. Organizations and businesses are encouraged to display the Calendar in their October publications. Procter and Gamble is considering the theme of Children's Health Month for their October Brandsaver publication that reaches 53 million households.
- International Walk to School Day will be celebrated on October 8 during Children's

Health Month. For the first time International Walk to School Day will include information about the air quality benefits of walking to school. Some Task Force agencies will participate in events that highlight the benefits of walking to school.

### HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Educating health care providers remains a key component of EPA's efforts to protect children's health.

- **American Academy of Pediatrics:** The *American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)* held their fourth workshop for Chief Pediatric Residents at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) in Seattle. This invitational workshop for incoming chief residents (CR's) is designed to 1) augment environmental health educational activities in residency programs and 2) increase awareness of the AAP *Handbook of Pediatric Environmental Health*. AAP conducted similar sessions during the 2000, 2001, and 2002 PAS meetings. Chief Residents are targeted because of their roles in directing educational activities in residency programs. Workshop participants were asked to conduct one or more environmental health education activities in their program during their chief residency year. An evaluation of this pilot program is forthcoming. This program is funded by OCHP.
- **Promoting the National Strategies for Health Care Providers - Pesticide Initiative:** EPA and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Labor, and health professionals nationwide, are supporting a national initiative to integrate health information related to pesticides into the education and practice of health care providers. OCHP participates in many aspects of this initiative and provided some funding for the National Forum held on June 10 and 11, 2003. One hundred participants attended the National Forum to discuss the best way to increase the capacity of health care providers to deal with pesticide-related issues. A meeting report will be available later this year. To learn more about the initiative, visit:  
<http://www.neetf.org/Health/providers/index.shtm>

### STATES

- **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL):** OCHP is supporting the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) in their efforts to assist state legislatures in the area of children's health protection. NCSL has produced a short video on children's environmental health this spring with the goal of reaching many

more legislators on the topic. NCSL is in the final stages of developing a Legislative Options Guide on children's environmental health issues of concern to the states. Pending state legislation and enacted children's environmental health statutes can be found on NCSL's website at: [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org).

- **Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)/Association of State Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO):** EPA (OCHP and the Indoor Environments Division) and CDC are supporting the implementation of a national action agenda to reduce environmental triggers of childhood asthma led by ECOS and ASTHO. In August 2001, a first-ever meeting of high level state environment and health officials resulted in the establishment of a vision statement and goals for the national asthma action agenda. Four topic meetings have been held around the country addressing key areas (environmental data and asthma surveillance, indoor environments in homes, schools/childcare settings, and outdoor environments.) Recommendations from each of the four 'topic' meetings were compiled by a national working group (made up of state environment and health officials) into a national action agenda. A request for proposals was issued for states to implement portions of the action agenda. Proposals are currently being evaluated for funding. The summary report - *Catching Your Breath: Strategies to Reduce Environmental Factors that Contribute to Asthma in Children* - can be accessed at: <http://www.astho.org/pubs/CatchingYourBreathReport.pdf>.
- On July 1, 2003, EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) announced in the Federal Register the availability of funding to support the joint efforts of state environment and health agencies and regional air authorities to minimize the environmental triggers of childhood asthma. This initiative builds on several years of work by EPA (OCHP and Indoor Environments Division), CDC, Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and their membership to build state capacity in this area. The ECOS/ASTHO draft action agenda "Catching Your Breath" <http://www.astho.org/pubs/CatchingYourBreathReport.pdf> was a significant source document for this solicitation.

Representatives from these state agencies in EPA Regions 2-10 are eligible to apply. (The states of CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT were funded through a separate solicitation from Region 1.) Approximately \$360,000 will be made available to fund roughly 9-12 awards from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Funding will be provided for both program planning and demonstration projects. Letters of Intent must be delivered via email no later than August 11, 2003. Qualified applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal due to EPA by October 6, 2003. For further information, see <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/grants.htm>.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **National Conference of Black Mayors:** At their Annual Meeting in April, the National Conference of Black Mayors signed a resolution on Children's Environmental Health, acknowledging the importance of protecting children from environmental health risks, recognizing October as Children's Health Month and committing to spread the word about children's environmental health in October and throughout the year.

### INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RISKS AND SAFETY RISKS TO CHILDREN

- In April President Bush signed an Executive Order extending the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children for 2 years. The Task Force, established in April 1997 by Executive Order, directed each Federal Agency to make it a high priority to identify, assess, and address children's environmental health and safety risks.

### FORUM ON CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION

- EPA (the Office of Research Development and OCHP) sponsored the first Forum on Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention in late May 2003. The Forum brought together EPA scientists, regulators, and community liaisons with researchers and the community partners of the 12 Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research to identify areas for policy improvements, new programmatic initiatives, and research needs. The Centers investigate environmental links to asthma and autism; exposure and effects of PBTs, pesticides, lead, and mercury in effected populations; and effective community-participatory outreach strategies to reduce environmental threats to the developing child. For more information about the Centers visit: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/translat/children/children.htm>.

### PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALTY UNITS

- The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs), funded by EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), convened their annual meeting at the end of May. The PEHSUs are located in each of the 10 EPA Regions as well as in Mexico (only funded by EPA) and Canada (not funded by the US government), and provide education and consultation services to health care



practitioners, public health officials, communities and individuals on children's environmental health issues. OCHP and many of the EPA Regions are working with EPA's Superfund office to broaden support within the Agency for the PEHSUs. For more information about the PEHSUs, visit: <http://www.aoec.org/pesu.htm>.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Global Children's Environmental Health Indicators implementation:** Two UN agencies, WHO and UNICEF, have agreed to lead the effort to develop global indicators as first proposed by EPA and partners at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Pilots are being organized in several of the six WHO regions.
- **Commission for Environmental Cooperation:** At the annual Council meeting in June, the Expert Advisory Board on Children's Environmental Health was extended for another two years and the ministers agreed to provide data for the North American children's environmental health indicators.
- **News:** National Children's Study forms International Interest Group in response to overseas queries. The group is co-chaired by Dr. Danuta Kratowski of NIEHS and Dr. Jenny Pronczuk of WHO. At the World Health Assembly in May, the health ministers spend several hours discussing children's environmental health and the WHO's new initiative called Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA). Many ministers expressed support for HECA in general and the global indicator effort in particular.

## SCHOOLS

- **Comprehensive Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool:** OCHP is funding a multi-office effort to develop a flexible and comprehensive software tool for school districts to use in conducting facility-specific environmental assessments that integrate all EPA environmental guidance and requirements and which will also be capable of integrating a wide range of other health and safety assessment issues of interest and concern to school districts. A contract to develop the assessment tool is in development and is expected to be in place by the end of the summer.

**Diesel School Bus Initiative:** On June 13, 2003, EPA launched a new partnership called **Clean School Bus USA: Tomorrow's Buses for Today's Children**. This

initiative seeks to reduce community and children's exposure to diesel exhaust by: 1) replacing the oldest buses in the fleet with new ones; 2) installing effective emission control systems on newer buses; and 3) encouraging policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary school bus idling. Press release:  
[http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/headline\\_061303.htm](http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/headline_061303.htm)

The **Schools Work Group of the Interagency Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children** is continuing its work. An inventory of Federal school environmental health programs and activities is available on-line at [http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/Inventory.htm/\\$file/Inventory.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/Inventory.htm/$file/Inventory.pdf)

The workgroup is making progress toward developing an interagency strategy that will identify areas of common interest and activity, leveraging opportunities, and make recommendations in key areas such as research on relationships between exposures, health, performance and learning, expanding partnerships, making existing schools healthy places to learn (and work), and building a new generation of high performance green schools.